



STAR WARS  
THE SITH WAR  
5 OF 6

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# STAR WARS TALES OF THE JEDI™

## The Sith War



Anderson • Carrasco • Heike

# STAR WARS<sup>®</sup> TALES OF THE JEDI<sup>™</sup>

## The Sith War

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Special thanks to

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PRINTED IN CANADA

## Brother against Brother

Exar Kun dispatches his Sith-possessed disciples on a mission to destroy their own Masters. Across the galaxy, Sith students attack, slaughtering great Jedi, though sometimes at the cost of their own lives.

On Master Thon's world, Nomi Sunrider and Sylvar are attacked by dark-side creatures manipulated by Oss Wilum and Crado — who was Sylvar's mate. Nomi, Sylvar, and Thon succeed in driving them back, capturing Oss Wilum. Crado escapes — but not before Sylvar slashes his cheek as she once did to Exar Kun.

When Crado returns to report his failure, Kun and Ulic Qel-Droma describe a new plan: the ancient Sith ship, buried on Yavin Four by the Sith Lord Naga Sadow, contains horrifying power once used to manipulate the fiery hearts of stars. Kun and Ulic charge the treacherous Aleema with commanding a mission to lure the Republic forces to the isolated station Kemplex Nine. There, the power-hungry Aleema will use Sith magic to detonate stars and devastate the Jedi. Ulic knows he is secretly sending Aleema to her doom to pay for her crimes. The hapless Crado, eager to restore his own honor, begs to go along and Exar Kun grudgingly agrees.

Meanwhile, in the aftermath of the slaughter of Jedi Masters, Dace Diath, Shoaneb Culu, and Qrrl Toq lead the main Republic forces to battle . . . but Kemplex Nine has already been devastated. They spot a Sith ship fleeing into the densely packed stars of the Cron Cluster. Weapons blazing, Dace, Shoaneb, and Qrrl Toq lead the pursuing Republic forces . . . into a trap! Aleema triggers the Sith weapon that rips the core out of a star, instantly devastating the Jedi fleet. But what Aleema does not suspect is that she has set up a chain reaction. All the stars around her explode, disintegrating the great Sith ship as well. Aleema and Crado die howling in betrayal.

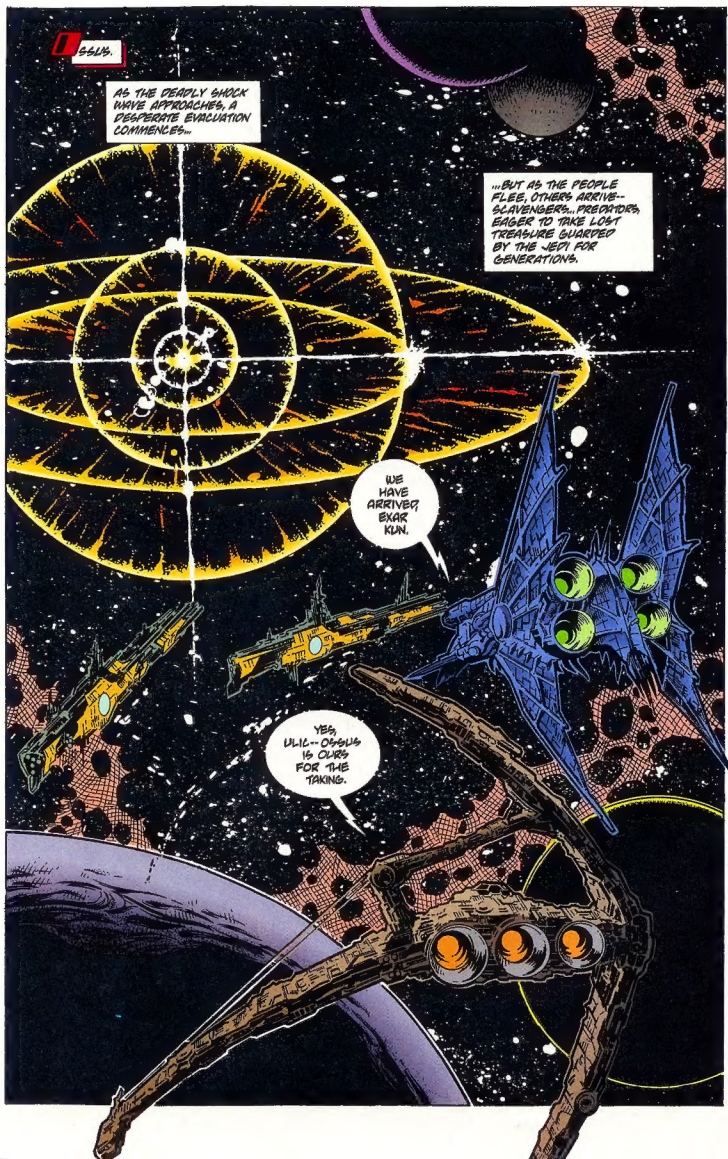
The shockwave from the multiple supernovas churns across space like a tidal wave of doom at the speed of light, heading directly for the Jedi archive world of Ossus. As the planetary evacuation begins, Ulic and Exar Kun rush to claim the precious artifacts before the firestorm arrives . . .

AS THE DEADLY SHOCK  
WAVE APPROACHES, A  
PREFERATE EVACUATION  
COMMENCES...

...BUT AS THE PEOPLE  
FLEE, OTHERS ARRIVE--  
SLAVENERS...PREDATORS,  
EAGER TO TAKE LOST  
TREASURE GUARDED  
BY THE JEDI FOR  
GENERATIONS.

WE  
HAVE  
ARRIVED,  
EXAR  
KUN.

YES,  
ULIC--OSSUS  
IS OURS  
FOR THE  
TAKING.



MANDALORE  
AND MOST OF HIS  
WARRIORS HAVE BEEN  
SENT TO TAKE THE DARK  
CITADEL OF ULIZ ON  
ONPERON.

FOR US,  
THOUGH, OBSSUS  
WILL BE EASY  
PICKINGS.

HE LOOKS AT THE BLAZE  
OF THE SUPERNOVA  
AFTERMATH, EXAR KUN IS  
NOT TROUBLED BY  
THOUGHTS OF HIS FRIEND  
GRADO...

...WHEN HE SENT  
TO CERTAIN  
DEATH.

ULIC GEL-DROMA, HOWEVER,  
TRIES TO STOP THOUGHTS OF  
HIS TREACHEROUS LOVER  
ALEENA, WHO INADVERTENTLY  
CAUSED THE ENTIRE  
HOLOCAUST...

LAUNCH ALL  
WAR-MOUNTS!

THOUGH MANY OF MANDALORE'S FIGHTERS HAVE GONE  
WITH THEIR MASKED WARLORD, ULIC CARRIES SUFFICIENT  
FIGHTERS TO CAUSE ALL THE HAVOC HE DESIRES.

SQUAD VIPER  
ALPHA, PROGRAM ATTACK  
LODES!

ON  
MY MARK! TO  
VICTORY!

TO  
VICTORY!



**T**HE GREAT JEDI LIBRARY.

HUSTLE, EVERYONE! THAT FIRESTORM IS ON ITS WAY!

A THOUSAND YEARS OF JEDI HISTORY MUST BE PACKED AND RESCUED IN ONLY A FEW HOURS.

THEY HAVE NO TIME TO SORT OR SIFT OUT THE MOST PRECIOUS ITEMS.

THEY MUST TAKE EVERYTHING, AND HURRY...AND HOPE.

BEFORE LONG, THE CHAOS TAKES ITS TOLL ON THE PRECIOUS GARDENS, THE ARCHIVES...

...AND THE FALL OF THE TOMB BEGINS TO SETTLE OVER OSSUG.

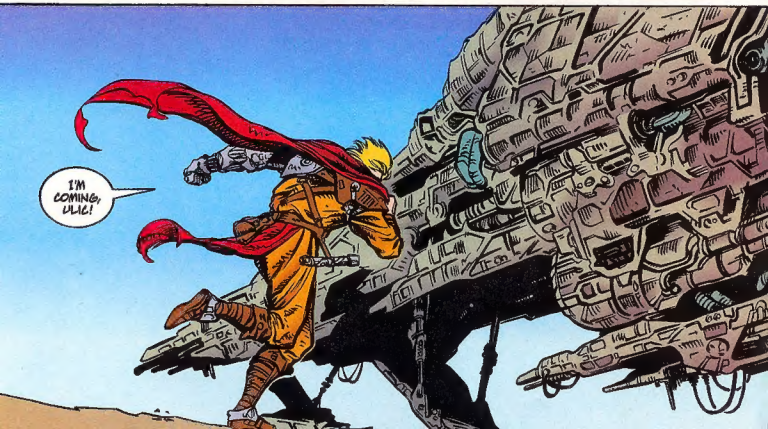
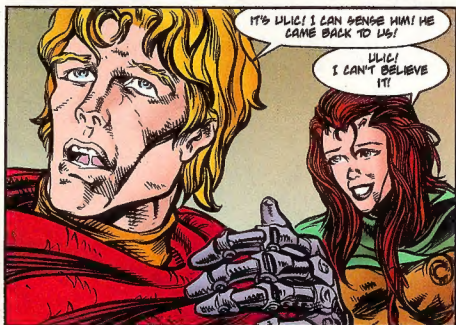
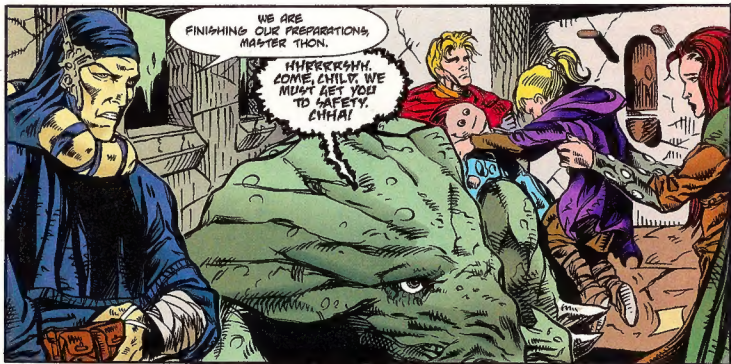
THE HOPELESS PREPARATIONS HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THOSE JEPI WHO MUST WITNESS THE EXCAVATION.

WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN.

BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO MORE, SOMEHOW!

IT IS ALREADY LOST. NAKETH CHAT OSSUG... OSSUG...

MASTER THON, WE'VE GOT TO GET TO ONE OF THE TRANSPORT SHIPS.

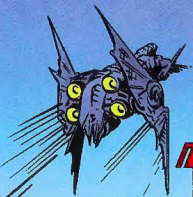
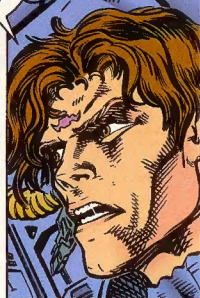


"ALL WAR-MOUNTS  
DEPLOYED... ON FINAL  
APPROACH... WHA...?"

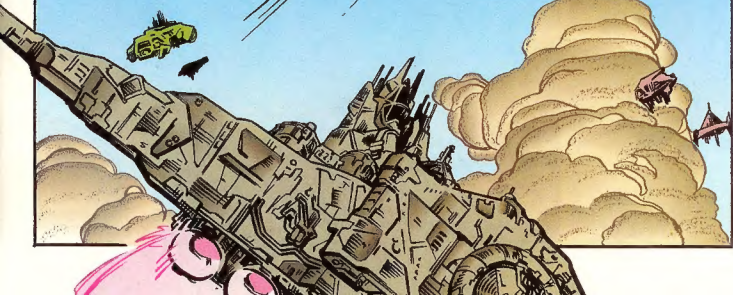
**ZZZTHWAM!**

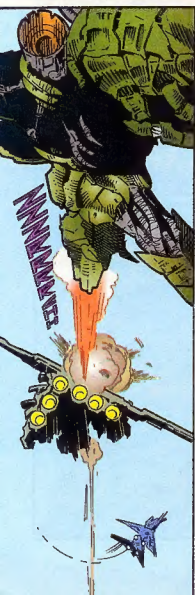
HA!  
ULIC! HOW  
MANY TIMES  
HAVE I TOLD  
YOU TO  
WATCH YOUR  
BACK!

CAL!  
STOP  
MEDDLING  
WITH MY LIFE!  
YOU'VE GOT  
TO LEAVE ME  
ALONE!

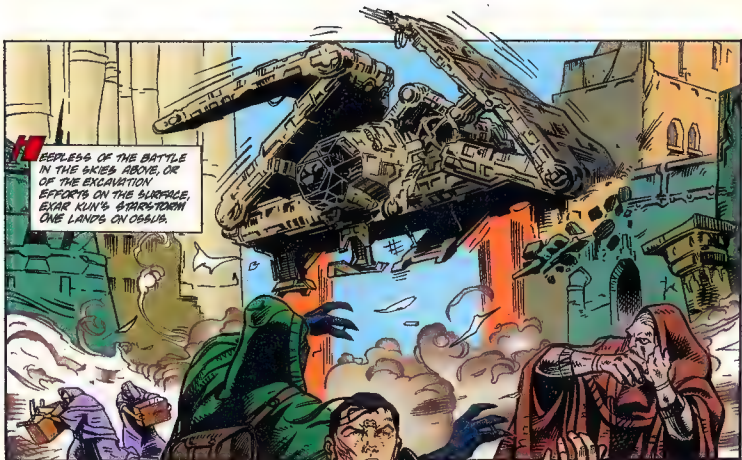


**N**OT WANTING TO BATTLE HIS  
BROTHER OUTRIGHT, ULIC  
GEL-PROMA ATTEMPTS  
TO EVADE PURSUIT.









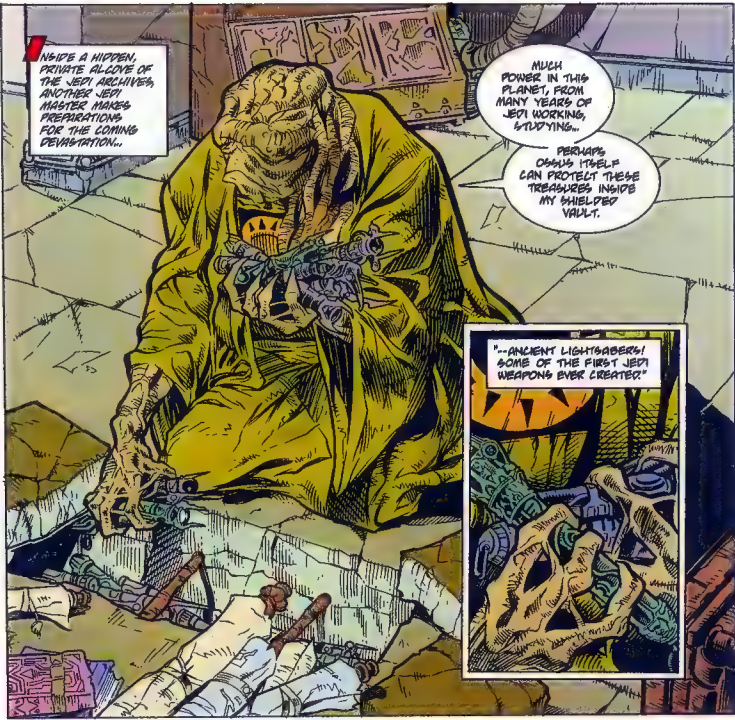
REGLESS OF THE BATTLE  
IN THE SKIES ABOVE, OR  
OF THE EXCAVATION  
EFFORTS ON THE SURFACE,  
EXAR KUN'S STARSTORM  
ONE LANDS ON ORBUS.

LIKE AN EMPEROR CLAIMING A  
CONQUERED LAND, KUN EMERGES  
SEARCHING FOR TREASURED  
ARTIFACTS.

CAN  
YOU SMELL  
THE HISTORY,  
THE POWER  
HERE?



WE HAVE  
LITTLE TIME TO  
TAKE IT ALL FOR  
OURSELVES!



INSIDE A HIDDEN, PRIVATE ALCOVE OF THE JEDI ARCHIVES, ANOTHER JEDI MASTER MAKES PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING DEVASTATION...

MUCH POWER IN THIS PLANET, FROM MANY YEARS OF JEDI WORKING, STUDYING...

PERHAPS ODDS I'VE CAN PROTECT THESE TREASURES INSIDE MY SHIELDED VAULT.

"--ANCIENT LIGHTSABERS! SOME OF THE FIRST JEDI WEAPONS EVER CREATED"

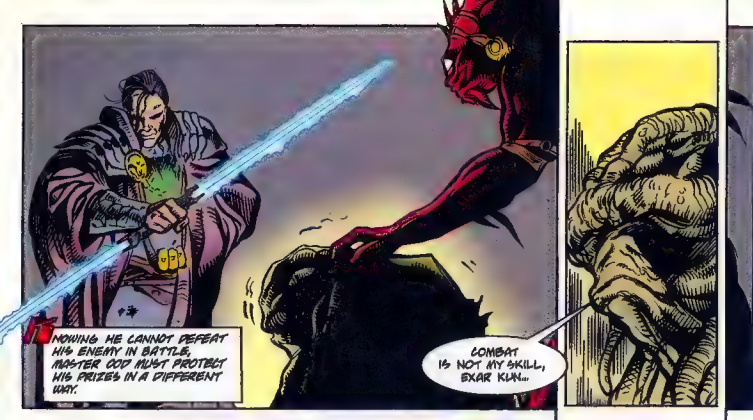


EKAR KUN!

AH, MASTER OOD! THANK YOU FOR SAVING THOSE ARTIFACTS FOR US.

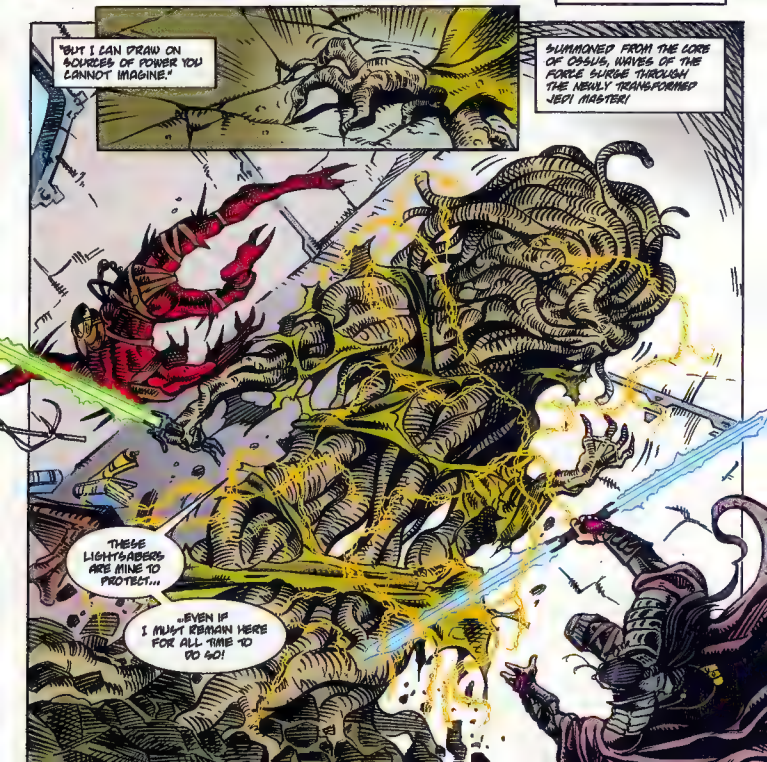
I WILL MAKE GOOD USE OF THEM IN THE NEW 5TH GOLDEN AGE!





KNOWING HE CANNOT DEFEAT HIS ENEMY IN BATTLE, MASTER ODON MUST PROTECT HIS PRIZES IN A DIFFERENT WAY.

COMBAT IS NOT MY SKILL, EXAR KUN...



"BUT I CAN DRAW ON SOURCES OF POWER YOU CANNOT IMAGINE."

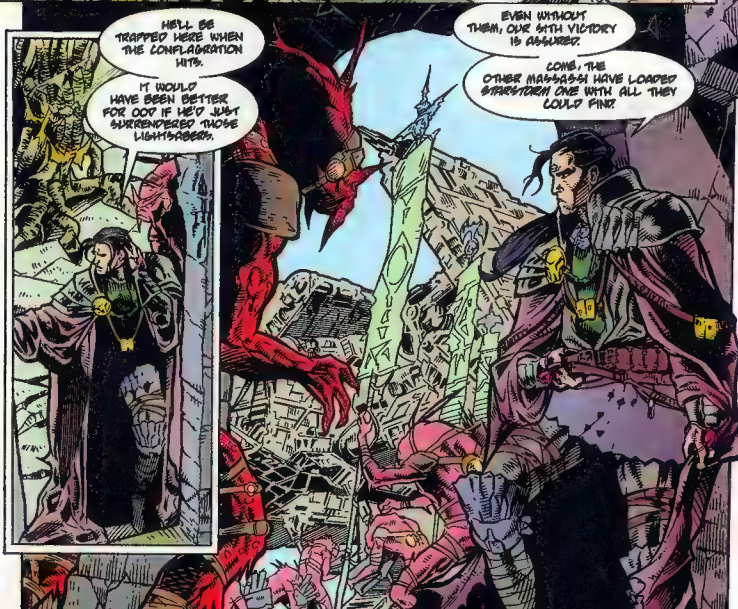
SUMMONED FROM THE CORE OF OBANUS, WAVES OF THE FORCE SURGE THROUGH THE NEWLY TRANSFORMED JEDI MASTER!

THESE LIGHTSABERS ARE MINE TO PROTECT...

...EVEN IF I MUST REMAIN HERE FOR ALL TIME TO DO SO!



FOOLISH  
OLD JEDI  
MASTER!

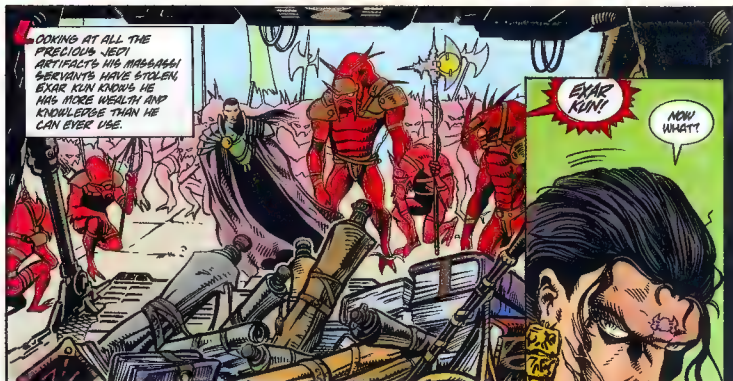


HE'LL BE  
TRAPPED HERE WHEN  
THE CONFLAGRATION  
HITS.

IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN BETTER  
FOR OBI IF HE'D JUST  
SURRENDERED THOSE  
LIGHTSABERS.

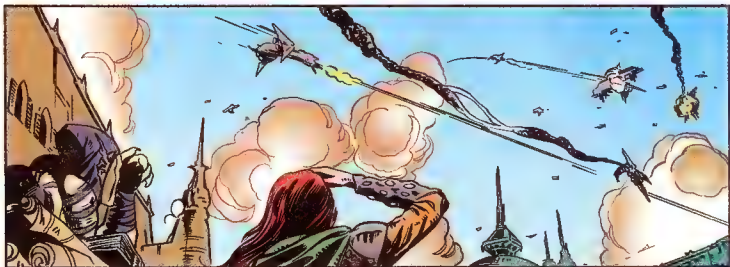
EVEN WITHOUT  
THEM, OUR SITH VICTORY  
IS ASSURED.

COME, THE  
OTHER MASSASSHI HAVE LOADED  
STARSTORM ONE WITH ALL THEY  
COULD FIND.

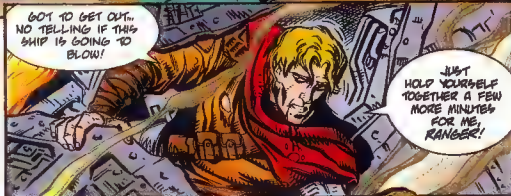








**E**VEN CAY GEL-DROMA'S  
CRACK PILOTING  
SKILLS ARE BARELY  
SUFFICIENT TO AVERT  
TOTAL DISASTER.



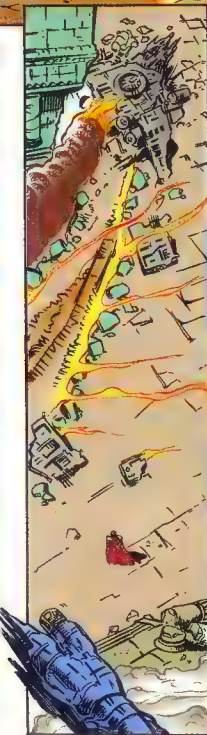
GOT TO GET OUT.  
NO TELLING IF THIS  
SHIP IS GOING TO  
BLOW!

JUST  
HOLD  
YOURSELF  
TOGETHER A FEW  
MORE MINUTES  
FOR ME,  
RANGER!



UULI!  
ARE YOU  
HURT?

SO,  
BROTHER, YOU  
LANDED SAFELY.  
DON'T FORCE ME  
TO HURT YOU  
FURTHER.

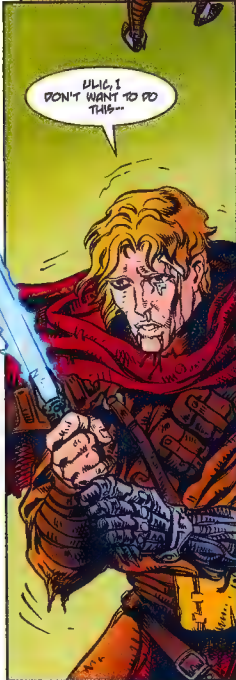




ULIC,  
YOU'VE BEEN  
INJURED! YOU'RE  
BLEEDING!



IT IS AN OLD WOUND,  
A SITH WOUND.  
THERE'S  
NOTHING YOU CAN DO  
ABOUT IT.



ULIC, I  
DON'T WANT TO DO  
THIS--



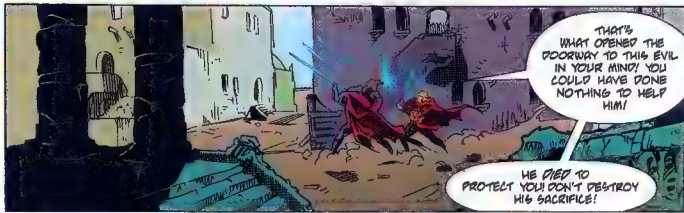
--BUT I  
HAVE TO SAVE  
YOU FROM YOURSELF,  
FROM THE DARK  
SIDE.



THE SIXTH  
POISON, ULIC! YOU'RE  
NOT THINKING  
CLEARLY!

DRIVE  
BACK THE DARK  
SIDE!

CONTROL  
YOUR ANGER OVER  
MASTER ARCTUS'S DEATH, ULIC!  
THAT'S WHAT PROVE  
YOU TO SEEK  
REVENGE!



THAT'S  
WHAT OPENED THE  
DOORWAY TO THIS EVIL  
IN YOUR MIND! YOU  
COULD HAVE DONE  
NOTHING TO HELP  
HIM!

HE DIED TO  
PROTECT YOU! DON'T DESTROY  
HIS SACRIFICE!



NOOOO!  
I WILL MAKE  
YOU...

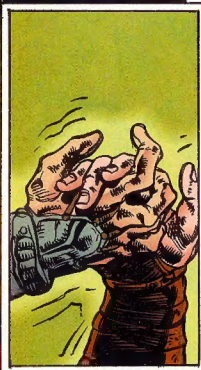
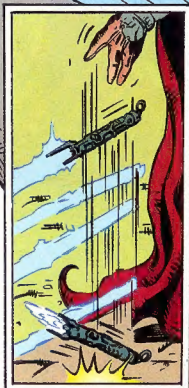
...BE...

...SILENT!



MY  
ARM!





LOI,  
MY BROTHER!  
WHAT HAVE I  
DONE?

CAAAAYYYY!!



**EX: DARK LORD!**

# JEDI JOURNALS

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**You folks just go ahead and talk. Go on... I'll stay out of the way.**

Amy Pronovost  
48/15 Friar John Way  
Coolbellup, Western Australia 6163  
Internet: frank@inet.com.au -or-  
apron@cleo.murdoch.edu.au

Before I begin, I'd like to note that you don't need access to a major Internet provider to send mail to you. [No... but you do need our net addresses, which are available on the Internet, or via America OnLine and CompuServe. See the Jedi Journals header.]

I got a mite bit curious some time ago and looked at this funny thing called *Dark Lords of the Sith*. I have always been a *Star Wars* buff and I think the TOTJ stuff is the best *Star Wars*-based comic book around at the moment. I liked Kevin J. Anderson's *Star Wars* trilogy (much to the dismay of a lot of my friends... yah, it isn't Zahn, but you can't compare two completely different writing styles) so I find the writing great. I also love the art. I tend to watch art more than writing, being an artist... and I love Hugh Fleming's covers... but is it just me, or does Ulic look like Val Kilmer in a few of them? Hmm. Not that I mind. Keep up the good work. I hope this story line goes on for a long time. Ulic is a dude, but he's not as cool as Boba Fett.

     
Kerry Lee Anderson  
7020 Burt Street  
Omaha, NE 68132-2644

The long wait is over; *The Sith War* has begun! I was totally blown away by the dramatic change in Ulic. Definitely not the sweet little boy we used to know. From Aleema's new wardrobe to Exar's battle with the Jedi Master Odan-Urr, the artwork was superb. There are just some things that an artist's tools can capture better than all of Lucas's special effects.

While I am not disillusioned from the fact that the Order of the Sith is obviously a patriarchal society, please do not tell me Aleema's just going to sit in the background wearing pretty clothes! She reminds me of Morgaine of the Faeries. Aleema obviously had a short

mourning period over the death of her Mordred-like brother as she follows her ambition toward Ulic. Oh, what a villainous pair they make! Keep up the addicting story line, and keep Ulic dark!



**By the way, the reaction on the net to *Sith War* and other *Star Wars* comics projects has been tremendous. We're getting nearly as many letters posted on the various on-line services now as are arriving at our offices via regular old "snail mail"!**

Jeromey Faber  
Internet: jsf7630@acs.tamu.edu

In the first issue of *The Sith War* in Jedi Journals it is mentioned that you wanted to know what we thought of a series to tell the tales of Naga Sadow and the fall of the Sith Empire. This is a great idea. I love reading the TOTJ, *Dark Lords of the Sith*, and now TSW; they have added so much to the *Star Wars* universe without coming close to compromising anything Lucas might do in the next four years. I can't wait for TSW #2 to hit the stands. I got to see the cover for issue #3, and it gave me chills. The cover work for this series is very impressive. First, you guys have the dual-saber-toting Exar Kun, and now a light-staff, pike... what do you call this thing? Very cool ideas. Thank you so much for bringing *Star Wars* back to us this way. Hugh Fleming is an amazing artist! May the Force be with you all!



Dean Lewis  
400 McChesney Ext. #11-9  
Troy, NY 12180  
Internet: lewisd4@rpi.edu -or-  
<http://www.rpi.edu/~lewisd4/>

Thanks for bringing us the great old *Star Wars* stories. I've really enjoyed all of the *Tales of the Jedi* series, and *The Sith War* looks like it will be one of the best. It doesn't look good for the Jedi with many of their members joining the dark side, and the great old Masters dying off. I especially liked the introduction of the Mandalorian warriors. I would like to see the series continued with

stories of Naga Sadow and the fall of the Sith Empire. What about stories on the beginnings of the Jedi or the Old Republic? Thanks again, and may the Force be with you.



Miguel Renaga  
7119 Waxahachie  
Houston, TX 77020

This is my first time writing, and I want to say I'm one of the biggest *Star Wars* fans that ever lived. I built a small bookshelf for nothing but my *Star Wars* stuff. I love to read the books because I picture myself in the action with the characters. With the comics it makes it a lot easier. I was going to write you to see if you could continue the adventures of Ulic and Nomi.

I do have a small problem that I would like to talk about and thank you if you can help me. The comic-book store I go to is a 30-minute drive roundtrip from my house. I don't have a car, so it is hard for me to get out there. I love comic books and especially the *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi* comics. I hate to miss any, and I'm afraid of missing a *Sith War* comic. My request to you is if there is any way that I can get a subscription sent to my house. The comic-book store requires a minimum of ten subscriptions, and I can't afford that. I hope you can help out. Thank you for your time and keep printing excellent *Star Wars* comics.

**You have a couple of options, Miguel: though *Dark Horse* does not offer subscriptions to its comics, there are several reputable mail-order firms that provide subscription services with substantial discounts for most comics currently being published. Two of the better known ones are:**

Westfield Company  
8608 University Green  
Dept. G  
PO Box 620470  
Middleton, WI 53562-0470  
Phone: (800) 937-8343

Mile High Comics  
2151 West 56th Ave.  
Denver, CO 80221  
Phone: (800) 676-6423

In addition to these options, Dark Horse has recently expanded its mail-order hours for ordering available back issues directly. You can now call (800) 862-0052 between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM Pacific Time to place a phone order for any already-published Dark Horse comic book in stock.



James E. Holt  
18468 Ferguson  
Detroit, MI 48235

This will be my first letter ever written to Dark Horse. I've been meaning to write in the past when I first encountered *Tales of the Jedi*. But time, along with my busy schedule, has not allowed me to do this. Well, in purchasing my first two copies of issue #1 of *TOTJ: The Sith War*, I felt this would be the perfect opportunity (I am home with symptoms of a 24-hour flu bug; or it could be the "dark-side" energies attacking me!). What do I think of *Tales of the Jedi*? Excellent! Superb! Magnificent! Two thumbs up, baby!

It's been more than twelve months since the release of the original *TOTJ* miniseries featuring the stories of Ulic Qel-Droma and Nomi Sunrider. Since that time, I have anxiously awaited the arrival of each episode at my local comic-book store, just as I've awaited the new prequels. *TOTJ* has truthfully generated that much excitement and adrenaline! I couldn't believe that a comic-book story line could be so darn good! Not only that, Marvel Comics and Archie Goodwin did such a mediocre, over-cropped injustice to the continuation of the saga in comic form, I expected a very weak story line. Fortunately, I got more than I bargained for! I really, really do mean that when I say it! "It feels so right to be wrong." To all the contributing writers and artists of Dark Horse's *TOTJ*, you guys deserve more than a pat on the back. In the words of the legendary artist James Brown, "jump back and kiss yourself." I'd almost swear that George Lucas himself wrote this dramatic story and merely hired authors to translate his ideas into comic-book form.

How in the world did you guys think of such a brilliant story?! The brash and bold Ulic Qel-Droma, so much definitely gives Luke Skywalker a run for his money, or a run for his lightsaber. The way Ulic is sketched out seems so realistic. The supple yet daring Nomi Sunrider, whose family tragedy leads to an interesting turn of events as she meets the fierce monstrosity, Jedi Master Thon. I think one certainty that captured my attention in *TOTJ* was the beautiful portrait of Ulic, flanked by Jedi Masters wielding their lightsabers. Dave

Dorman's art immediately grabbed my attention, the cover reminded me so much of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Ulic Qel-Droma resembles famed actor Val Kilmer. If *Tales of the Jedi* is ever made into a movie, perhaps Val Kilmer could portray young Ulic, with Sharon Stone as Nomi Sunrider, Sean Connery as Master Arca, Brad Pitt as Exar Kun, Avery Brooks as Dace Diath, and the voice of Brock Peters as Master Thon. An incredible ensemble of talent. It may never happen, but anything is possible. Again, Dave Dorman's *TOTJ* #1 cover art made me say, "these guys are serious, this story promises to be a step above the ordinary."

As an Afro-American, I was truly glad to see the inclusion of a black, male Jedi Knight, Dace Diath. You've shown in a comic fashion that black heroes can be more than just mere con artists and high rollers like Lando Calrissian (I'm not knocking Lando). I like Lando and I'm glad that George Lucas gave the character of Lando Calrissian the opportunity to prove his value after betraying Han Solo, later becoming a general in the Rebel Alliance — sort of like a redemption. But Dace has nothing to prove, other than his quest to be a full-fledged Jedi Knight. This quest is no different from other Jedi. Furthermore, Dace's father was a Jedi Master, Sidrona Diath. Both men were from Luke's home world, Tatooine. I'd like to see more of Dace Diath in possible future issues of *TOTJ*. Please don't kill off Dace or have him succumb to the Dark Side like Oss Wilum.

The women of *TOTJ*! Whooah! Nomi may have been cowardly and supple at one point, but it's good to see that Master Thon, along with her own inner strength, conquered her fears. Now Nomi, like her late husband Andur, is just as courageous and combatant as Ulic or any of the other male Jedi Knights. She is a charming young woman of valor who has not only shown she is strong in the Force, but a good mother too. Little Vima, a powerful little girl, is fortunate to have had two parents who were so strong in the Force. I can't wait to see future issues with Vima Sunrider as a "Jedi Master with many apprentices" (hint, hint!), as Master Odan Urr mentions in issue #1 of *Sith War*. Indeed, she has a very bright future. Then there is the fearless and eyeless Miraluka Jedi, Shoaneb Culu, truly a unique Jedi Knight with unheard-of ability as a blind Force-wielder. I'm glad to know we'll be seeing more of Shoaneb in future stories. I'm sure she'll hold to the light. Last but definitely not least is Sylvar, a member of the Cathar race. Sylvar, as bold and courageous as she is, needs to learn control of her emotions (mindful of the instance where she gave in to the rage in her

lightsaber duel with Exar Kun). Otherwise, Sylvar is a sure heroine.

My final words are based on Bob Cooper's editorial comments found in the *Jedi Journals of Sith War* #1. Bob asks readers what other stories would Dark Horse fans like to read about based on pivotal events past, present, and future. Well, I would love to see an 18-20 issue maxi-series done on the fall of the Sith Empire. My suggestion with this series would be to feature an alien Jedi instead of a human, particularly Odan Urr. Odan Urr did make mention that he captured the "Sith Holocron," which I would assume he could have only done during the rise and fall of the Sith Empire. Furthermore, in the original *TOTJ* miniseries — "The Saga of Nomi Sunrider" in issue #4, Oss Wilum tells Nomi Sunrider that the planet Ambria, of the Stenness system, is a dark-side world. He also says that Master Thon drove the dark-side energies that permeate the planet, into a lake which he called Lake Natth.

There are so many stories that could continue the *TOTJ* saga it would be a sin for you to stop after *Sith War*. Keep it up, you guys. Well, gotta go, I've said more than enough!

Sorry, James — we had to drastically edit down your comments for inclusion here. Thanks very much, though, for your obvious dedication to *Star Wars*, as well as to the small part that Dark Horse is able to play in George Lucas' amazing world.



## NEXT MONTH:

The stunning conclusion to the epic saga of Ulic Qel-Droma, Nomi Sunrider, and Exar Kun. The Sith War yields its ultimate casualties and survivors, and the light and dark sides of the Force are changed forever.

— Bob Cooper